

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center  
2101 NASA Parkway  
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



August 8, 2006

Reply to Attn of: AL-06-097

TO: Distribution

FROM: AL/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance of the  
Roving Mars documentary at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

On August 9, 2006, Lockheed Martin is hosting a reception and complimentary showing of Roving Mars documentary at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Houston, Texas.

The Roving Mars documentary is about the two robots NASA sent to Mars, and what they found as they performed on-site geological investigations of the Mars surface. The documentary is meant to share information about NASA's twin robot geologists, in search of answers about the history of water on Mars. It also shows the launch sequence, from the lift-off, the sequence of rocket stages falling away, and how the payload is set spinning, and ultimately shot into space.

The event will be a widely attended gathering of approximately 400 people, which includes civil servants from JSC, members of the aerospace community, and members of the local Houston community. The event is of direct interest to NASA and serves as a forum for facilitating the widest practicable dissemination of information concerning the Agency, the United States civilian space programs, particularly the Mars Exploration Rover mission, which is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. The event will include appetizers and drinks, and the event is valued at approximately \$13 per person.

I find that this reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Therefore, NASA invitees and their guest may attend this event and accept free admission and any food and refreshments offered in conjunction with this event.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bernard J. Roan".  
Bernard J. Roan

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